

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed 10th April 2006. Claims 1-5, 7, 8 and 10-22 remain pending. Applicants' undersigned representative wishes to again thank the Examiner for the many courtesies extended to the undersigned during an in-person interview at which time Applicants' representatives Guy Farmer and Alain Decamps participated by telephone. The Interview Summary accurately reflects the discussions at the interview.

All rejections of record are respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

The rejection of all claims predicated on U.S. Patent No. 2,878,357 (Thompson et al) is respectfully traversed. Applicants submit that the patent document does not teach "first and second bus bars which are substantially non-parallel in diverging" as set forth in Claim 1 which is the only independent Claim. (emphasis added)

Applicants submitted via facsimile to the Examiner in advance of the interview the cover page and page 67 of the IEEE Standard Dictionary of Electrical and Electronics Terms. A duplicate is attached to this Response. The dictionary definition of "bus" is "A conductor or group of conductors, that serve as a common connection for two or more circuits." (emphasis added).

In the Thomson document, Figure 1, the accompanying text refers to each of elements 28 and 29 as a "bus" and those elements fit the above definition however they are not "diverging". While the Thomson document also refers to elements 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27 as buses (column 3, lines 25-27) it is clear that these elements do not fit within the accepted definition of "bus". For example, elements 22 and 27 via lead 31 merely connects sections 15 and 20 together such that a single circuit is formed from bus 28, through section 15, "bus" 22, lead 31, "bus" 27 and bus 29. Thus regardless of the label used in the Thompson document, elements 22 and 27

merely serve to connect two parts of a single circuit. The same analysis holds true for elements 23, 32 and 26 and for elements 24, 33 and 25 – each group relates to only a single circuit. But, by definition, a "bus" is a common connection for two or more circuits as noted above.

In Figure 2 of the Thomson document there is only a single circuit which follows a serpentine path, i.e., from lead 63 to connector 55, through section 42, through connector 60, through section 44, etc. Therefore, Figure 2 does not provide the first and second bus bars. Finally, in Figure 3 of the Thomson document, there is only a single bus 91 which is a connection to multiple circuits, i.e., each of sections 73, 74, 75, 76, 77 and 78 through connectors 85, 86, 87, 88, 89 and 90 and through leads 92, 93, 94, 95, 96 and 97 to the transformer 99. The Thomson document even refers to element 91 as the common bus. (Thomson, column 5 at line 75 and column 6 at line 6).

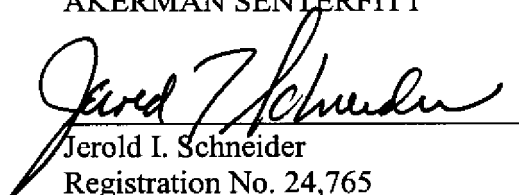
Thus in the manner applied in the Final Rejection, the Thomson document fails as a reference. It was also pointed out that the Nippon Sheet document (GB 2 186 769) also has first and second bus bars which are not "diverging" as noted in Claim 1.

For each of the foregoing reasons, the rejections of record are respectfully traversed. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. Although no fee is believed due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0951.

Respectfully submitted,

AKERMAN SENTERFITT

Dated: June 19, 2006


Jerold I. Schneider
Registration No. 24,765
P.O. Box 3188
West Palm Beach, FL 33402-3188
Tel: 561-653-5000

An American National Standard

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IEEE Standard Dictionary of Electrical and Electronics Terms

aerospace and electronics systems antennas and propagation
audio and electroacoustics automatic control broadcast and
television receivers broadcasting circuit theory communica-
tion technology computer education electrical insulation
electromagnetic compatibility electron devices engineering
in medicine and biology engineering management engineer-
ing writing and speech geoscience electronics industrial
electronics and control instrumentation industry and general
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burst magnitude, instantaneous. See: instantaneous burst magnitude.

burst measurements. See: energy density spectrum.

burst quiet interval (audio and electroacoustics). The time interval between successive burst during which the instantaneous magnitude does not equal the upper burst reference. See: The figure attached to the definition of burst duration. See also: burst (audio and electroacoustics). E257-1E1

burst repetition rate (audio and electroacoustics). The average number of bursts per unit of time. See: The figure attached to the definition of burst duration. See also: burst (audio and electroacoustics). E257-1E1

burst rise interval (audio and electroacoustics). The time interval between the burst leading-edge time and the instant at which the peak burst magnitude occurs. See: The figure attached to the definition of burst duration. See also: burst (audio and electroacoustics). E257-1E1

burst safeguard interval (audio and electroacoustics). A time interval of selected length during which excursions below the lower burst reference are neglected; it is used in determining those instants at which the lower burst reference is first and last equaled during a burst. See: The figure attached to the definition of burst duration. See also: burst (audio and electroacoustics). E257-1E1

burst spacing (audio and electroacoustics). The time interval between the burst leading-edge times of two consecutive bursts. See: The figure attached to the definition of burst duration. See also: burst (audio and electroacoustics). E257-1E1

burst trailing-edge time (audio and electroacoustics). The instant at which the instantaneous burst magnitude last equals the lower burst reference. See: The figure attached to the definition of burst duration. See also: burst (audio and electroacoustics). E257-1E1

burst train (audio and electroacoustics). A succession of similar bursts having comparable adjacent burst quiet intervals. See: The figure attached to the definition of burst duration. See also: burst (audio and electroacoustics). E257-1E1

bus (1) (electric power). A conductor, or group of conductors, that serve as a common connection for two or more circuits. 37A100-31E11

(2) (electronic computers). One or more conductors used for transmitting signals or power from one or more sources to one or more destinations. See also: electronic digital computer. E162-0

bushing (1) (outdoor electric apparatus). An insulating structure including a central conductor, or providing a central passage for a conductor, with provision for mounting on a barrier, conducting or otherwise, for the purpose of insulating the conductor from the barrier and conducting current from one side of the barrier to the other. See: floor bushing; indoor wall bushing; outdoor wall bushing; power distribution, overhead construction; roof bushing; wall bushing. E49/76A1-0; 37A100-31E11

(2) (rotating machinery). (A) (electrical). Preformed insulating casing, with mechanical seal, permitting passage of a high-potential conductor through the generator housing, usually acting as armature terminal. (B) (mechanical). A sleeve or quill on which a spider is

mounted and which, in turn, is mounted on a shaft. See also: cradle base (rotating machinery). 0-31E8

(3) (relay). See: relay spring stud.

bushing potential tap (outdoor electric apparatus). An insulated connection to one of the conducting layers of a bushing providing a capacitance voltage divider to indicate the voltage on the bushing. The tap is accessible from outside the bushing. See also: power distribution, overhead construction. 76A1-0

bushing, rotor. See: rotor bushing.

bushing test tap (outdoor electric apparatus). An insulated connection to one of the conducting layers of a bushing for the purpose of making ungrounded specimen power-factor tests. The tap is accessible from outside the bushing. See also: power distribution, overhead construction. 76A1-0

bus line (railway terminology). A continuous electric circuit other than the electric train line, extending through two or more vehicles of a train, for the distribution of electric energy. See also: multiple-unit control. 42A42-0

bus structure. An assembly of bus conductors, with associated connection joints and insulating supports. 37A100-31E11

bus support. An insulating support for a bus. Note: It includes one or more insulator units with fittings for fastening to the mounting structure and for receiving the bus. 37A100-31E11

bus-type shunts (electric power systems). Instrument shunts intended for switchboard use that are designed to be installed in the bus or connection bar structure of the circuit whose current is to be measured. See also: power system, low-frequency and surge testing. 0-31E5

busy test. A test made to find out whether certain facilities that may be desired, such as a subscriber line or trunk, are available for use. See also: telephone system. 42A65-19E1

busy tone. See: audible busy signal.

butt contacts (industrial control). An arrangement in which relative movement of the cooperating members is substantially in a direction perpendicular to the surface of contact. See: contactor. 50I15-34E10

butt joint (waveguides). A connection between two waveguides or transmission lines that provides physical contact between the ends of the waveguides in order to maintain electric continuity. See: waveguides. E147-0; 0-3E1

buzz (electromagnetic compatibility). A disturbance of relatively short duration, but longer than a specified value as measured under specified conditions. Note: For the specified values and conditions, guidance should be found in documents of the International Special Committee on Radio Interference. See also: electromagnetic compatibility. CISPR-27E1

buzz stick. A device for testing suspension insulator units for fault when the units are in position on an energized line. Note: It consists of an insulating stick, on one end of which are metal prongs of the proper dimensions for spanning and short-circuiting the porcelain of one insulator unit at a time, and thereby checking conformity to normal voltage gradient. See also: tower. 42A35-31E13

buzzer. A signaling device for producing a buzzing sound by the vibration of an armature. See also: circuits and devices. 42A65-0